

Operation 8: The Movie

'TERROR RAIDS' DOCUMENTARY TO PREMIERE
IN 2011 WORLD CINEMA SHOWCASE

A feature documentary on the 2007 'anti-terror' raids will have its world premiere at the World Cinema Showcase in Wellington.

Operation 8, produced by CutCutCut Films, is the only New Zealand film screening in the Showcase line-up. It will premiere on Sunday 17 April, 2.45pm at the Paramount.

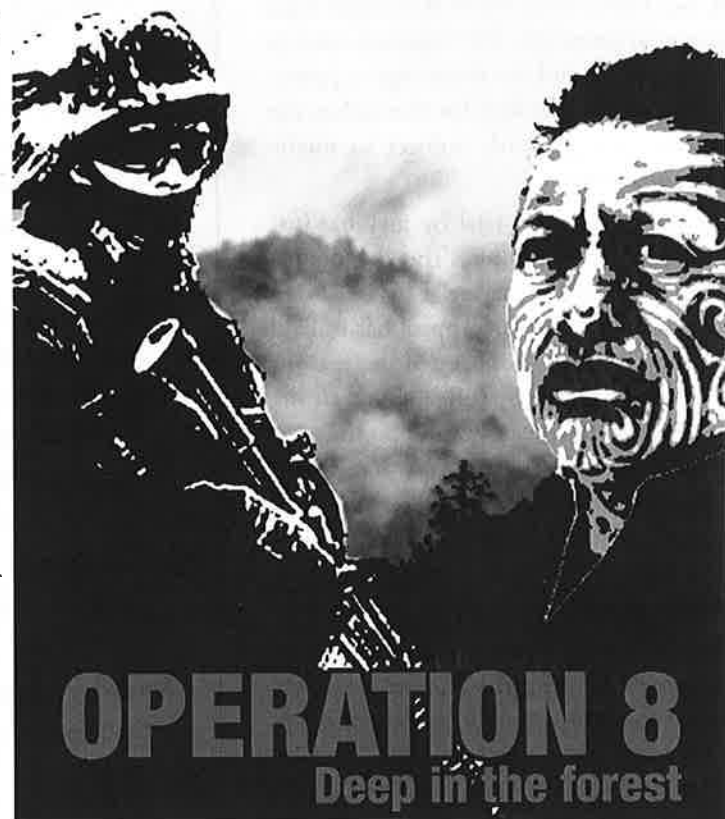
Three and a half years have passed since the police raids of October 15, 2007. The accused were released on bail and eighteen defendants face charges under the Arms Act – five of which are charged with 'participating in a criminal group'. The Court of Appeal recently upheld a high court decision that denied the accused a trial by jury. They are currently facing a three to four-month long judge-only trial in Auckland.

Operation 8 features interviews with defendants, lawyers, Rūatoki residents and experts well versed in the case. The film gives a first hand account of what occurred during the raids, while exploring the political, historical and social contexts of how and why they took place.

The Making of Operation 8

Operation 8 has been over three years in the making, with producer and co-director Errol Wright filming the unfolding saga of the defendants as they go through the New Zealand court system. Operation 8 is the third feature documentary from independent filmmakers Errol Wright and Abi King-Jones.

The World Cinema Showcase this year screens in Auckland (April 1 – 18), Wellington (April 14 – 30) and Dunedin (May 5 – 18).



Errol Wright & Abi King-Jones on making Operation 8:

"In terms of 'Operation 8', discovering what connects George W. Bush to an early 20th century Māori prophet or a teenage Animal Rights campaigner is as revealing as a mother describing what it was like for her to have her children searched and locked in a shed at gunpoint."

"Making a film that has, for example, John Minto (prominent Springbok Tour campaigner) and Ross Meurant (former head of the Red Squad) sharing views on a politically contentious event, has been an extraordinary experience. With interviews from the Urewera locals, to academic heavyweights and ex-undercover police officers – the process of bringing this story to the big screen has been engaging and rewarding from the start. There are some funny bits in there as well..."

www.cutcutcut.com

www.worldcinemashowcase.co.nz/titles11/operation8.html

What we need: Solidarity

People keep asking how they can support the defendants and the solidarity work needed for the up-coming trial(s). Therefore we have compiled a list of things that we think people could help with in the coming weeks and during trial.

If you can do any of these things (or parts of these things with other people) please respond by email to info@october15th-solidarity.info or by post to PO Box 9263 Wellington. The first part of the list is defendant solidarity, the second part is about political work.

Defendant support

PURPOSE: Providing assistance to defendants to meet basic needs during trial

- Most urgent need is for fundraising
- Accommodation in Auckland (trial time is 12 weeks) Cheap rooms, couches, vans or tent sites people can come to, including hostels, etc maybe a roster/list/etc of what kind of place and what the requirements of the place are (e.g. child-friendly, pet-friendly, women-only, vegetarian, non-smoker, early riser? whatever).
- Food: Dumpstered food, and help getting to know these spots. Food at court when possible (and a clear indication when this will be happening)
- Childcare: Necessary at court and outside of court hours for people needing time out. Helping with getting children to and from school, kōhanga reo or early childhood facilities.

Political solidarity:

PURPOSES:

- Emphasise the political nature of the trial and create support for the various causes tied up in the case
- Gain public support and understanding
- Raise money and awareness
- Exert political pressure for justice

COMMUNICATIONS

- writing press releases
- media spokespeople
- court reports for website
- publishing October 15th solidarity newsletter
- gathering mainstream media reports
- organising translations for website
- political analysis
- producing leaflets, posters and propaganda
- Photos and documentation of trial/court/solidarity actions
- Networking

EDUCATION and FUNDRAISING

- public meetings
- film screenings
- gigs
- stalls
- leafletting

POLITICAL ACTIONS

- solidarity actions when appropriate including pickets, demonstrations etc.

No reira, tenei te mihi nui ki a koutou. Tena tatou

Kia ora,

This newsletter is from October 15th Solidarity Wellington. We send out irregular updates on the campaign to support the people arrested in the so-called 'anti-terror' raids in Aotearoa (New Zealand) on 15 October 2007, 19 February and 17 April 2008.

There are Solidarity crews working around the country. If you would like to get involved or start your own solidarity crew, email info@october15thsolidarity.info for more details. You can make a financial donation to the campaign by direct deposits or automatic payments at any Kiwibank. Account name: October 15 Solidarity, Account Number: 38-9007-0239672-000. Please specify if the money is for 'legal defence', for 'arrestee support' or for 'campaign work'. Cheques made out to 'October 15 Solidarity' can be posted to October 15 Solidarity, PO Box 9263, Wellington, New Zealand. If you would like to submit writing, photos, stories, or responses please get in touch! info@October15thSolidarity.info www.October15thSolidarity.info

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October 15th Solidarity newsletter

17 April 2011

Campaign update

Issue 19

Countdown to trial 30 May 2011 Auckland High Court

Fifteen of the defendants in the police 'Operation 8' case are poised to go to trial on 30 May 2011 nearly four years after their initial arrests. Five of the fifteen people are charged with 'participation in an organised criminal group' and all fifteen are charged with possession of weapons under the Arms Act.

Three other defendants also face firearms charges in relation to the same case. Their trial has been 'severed' e.g. it will be conducted separately, and no date has been set for that trial.

Trial of the fifteen people will be at the Auckland High Court and is expected to take about 12 weeks. The crown case will take up approximately the first six weeks, this is then followed by defence arguments.

Remember, remember the 15th of October, 2007

Most New Zealanders will remember that day well, when cries of 'terrorism' were being shouted from high up at Police Headquarters. On that day, 17 people were arrested and police sought to charge 12 people, including well-known activist Tame Iti, under the Terrorism Suppression Act (TSA). This law, never before used in New Zealand, was being hauled out in order to prosecute Māori and pākehā political activists. In order to bring those charges, police had to seek the permission of the Solicitor-General. His consent was required. All of the relevant evidence was handed over to him, while the people who had been arrested in terrifying morning raids sat in jails around the country.

Twenty-six days after the arrests, the Solicitor-General called a press conference. He said 'No' to the police and 'No' to the terrorism charges. The imprisoned people were let out of jail, and everyone thought the episode was over.

It's not over.

In February 2008, more arrests were made. All of the people had very strict bail conditions and were required to make regular trips to Auckland for court. The total number of defendants was now 20.

Following the preliminary hearing nearly a year after the arrests, there were 18 defendants left.

The past three and a half years have been filled with anxiety and stress for the people involved and for their families and friends. The emotional, physical and financial stress has been tremendous.

The defendants have had to struggle at each step of the way for their basic rights. The 15 have been denied a jury trial, and instead will be tried by a judge alone. (see the story on the next page *Struggling for Justice: Supreme court appeals to come*).

Moreover, justice for the people affected in the raids continues to be denied. Neither the Independent Police Conduct Authority nor the Human Rights Commission have reported back on the issue. Negotiations with the police commissioner Howard Broad, stalled early on and are now off the table as he has left the job, and left his mess behind.

Finally, justice for Tūhoe has been denied as their claims for ownership of Te Urewera and compensation for the theft of their land have been rejected by the government. The rightful return of Te Urewera to Tūhoe should not wait another 150 years.



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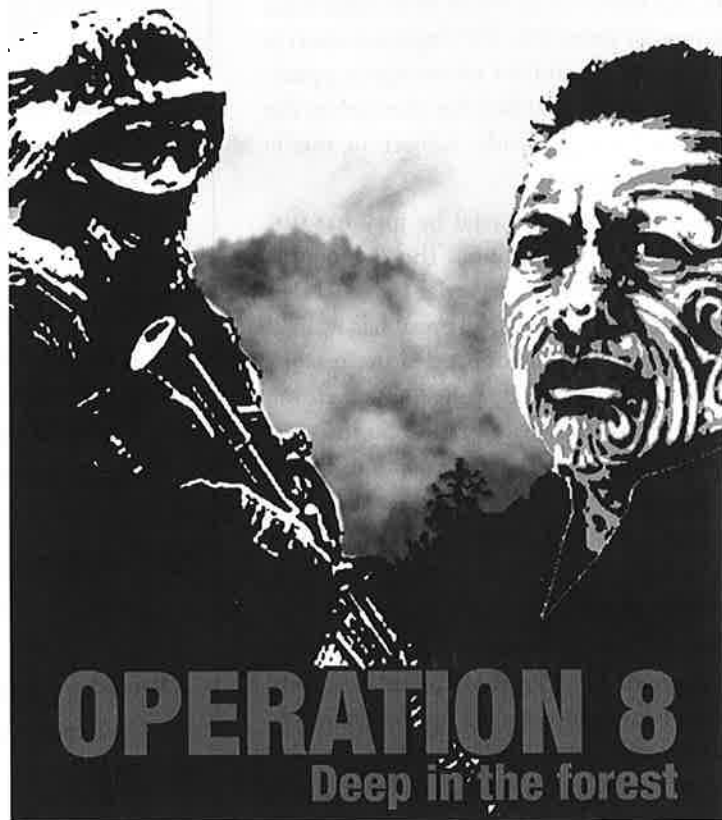
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